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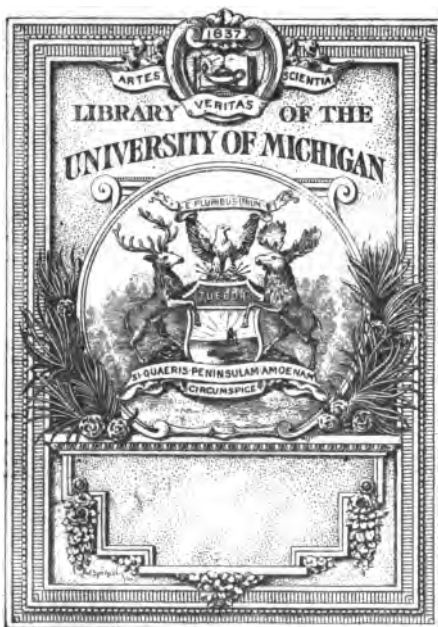
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# ANGELUS SILESIUS





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**ANGELUS SILESIUS.**



# ANGELUS SILESIUS

A SELECTION  
FROM THE RHYMES  
OF A GERMAN MYSTIC

TRANSLATED IN THE ORIGINAL METER  
BY  
PAUL CARUS



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## INTRODUCTION.







## INTRODUCTION.

Johannes Scheffler, better known under the name of Angelus Silesius, was born of Protestant parents at Breslau, the capital of Silesia, in 1624, and was baptized in the same year on Christmas day. After passing through the usual course of education at a gymnasium he attended the universities of Strassburg, Leyden and Padua where he studied medicine and philosophy. At the last-mentioned place he took his doctor's decree in 1647. For three years, 1649-1652, he served as Court Physician to Duke Sylvius Nimrod of Oels, who was a pious but decidedly one-sided Protestant.

Scheffler's mystic inclinations had long before alienated him from the dogmatic and anti-artistic spirit of the religion of his birth which during the middle of the seventeenth century was more severe and bigoted than ever before or afterwards. At the same time there was a religious revival in the Roman Catholic world

which proved attractive to him, and so it was but natural that in 1653 he finally severed his old affiliations, and joined the Church that by the mystical glamor of its historical traditions and ritual was most sympathetic to him. It was then that he adopted the name Angelus Silesius, and forthwith called himself Scheffler Johannes Angelus Silesius.

The zeal with which Scheffler embraced Roman Catholicism made him unjust toward the Protestant persuasion and implicated him in very unpleasant controversies.

Having become "persona grata" in the aristocratic circles of Austria, Scheffler became Court Physician to the Emperor in 1654; ten years later, in 1664, he was appointed chief Master of Ceremonies at the court of the Prince Bishop of Breslau, with the title of Counsellor.

His devotion led him in 1661 to enter the order of St. Francis, commonly called the Brotherhood of Minorites. Having fallen a prey to consumption, he died July 9, 1677, in the institution of the Knights of the Cross of St. Matthew in Breslau.

We have tried in vain to find a likeness of Johannes Scheffler. The only portrait that we can discover is a caricature in an



Dr. Johannes Scheffler.  
(Detail of caricature, somewhat enlarged.)

invective lampoon entitled “Wohlverdientes Kapitel” (Well-deserved Chapter)

*Johannes Schefflerius  
P. et M. D. Archidiaconus  
et Physicus Olavensis.*

Scheffler's Signature.

published in 1664, in which our mystic is represented as a pedler of spectacles, rosaries, cards, dice, and other similar



**Caricature of Angelus Silesius.**  
(Reproduced from a print of 1664. Considerably reduced.)

wares. No attempt has been made to disfigure the expression of his face, and we have reason to believe that it bears a certain likeness to the man.

In his signature he calls himself "Archiatr et physicus Olsnensis," which means that he was court physician and surgeon of the small duchy of Oels in Silesia.

\* \* \*

Though by education a physician and a scientist, Johannes Scheffler was a mystic and a poet. His most famous book is entitled "Cherubinischer Wandersmann" (The Cherubinean Wanderer), and it is from this that the present selection has been made. It was first printed by the Society of Jesus at Vienna in 1657 and was given the sanction of the Roman Catholic Church. The imprimatur reads as follows:

#### APPROBATIO.

Ego infrascriptus legi Domini Joannis Angeli Silesij libellum qui inscribitur "Geistreiche Sinn- und Schluss-Reime"; quo amoenitatem lusumque Poëticum ita pietati sacrisque salibus miscet, ut Lectorem inde & recreandum spe-

rem, & ad pios animi sensus commovendum.  
Ideoque dignum censui, qui luci publicae com-  
mitteretur. Viennae ex Caesareo Academico  
Collegio Societatis Jesu die 2. Aprilis Anno  
1657.

Nicolaus Avancinus,  
è Soc: Jesu, S. S. Theol: Do-  
ctore ejusdemque Facultatis Vien-  
nensis Decanus.

Imprimatur.

Joannes Guilielmus  
Juncher, p. t. Vniver-  
sitats Rector.

The publication of the "Cherubinischer Wandersmann" was followed by that of another pious effusion called "Heilige Seelenlust oder geistliche Hirtenlust der in ihren Jesum verliebten Psyche." Angelus Silesius is also the author of several Church songs which breathe fervor and piety. As the best-known of his hymns which are still in use, we cite the two beginning:

"Mir nach! spricht Christus, unser Held,  
Mir nach, ihr Christen alle,"

and

"Liebe, die du mich zum Bilde  
Deiner Gottheit hast gemacht."

Like Newman's "Lead, kindly light!" his hymns have become the common property of both Roman Catholic and Protestant churches. Some of his songs have been translated into English, notably, "Earth has nothing sweet and fair."

Angelus Silesius is very little known to English readers; and we must grant that a perusal of all the 1676 little poems of his book would be extremely monotonous. But among the chaff there are golden grains, and we have selected the most striking verses, and offer them here to our readers as some of the most beautiful expressions of thought that has been produced by mysticism, not the mysticism of vagaries and vain speculations, such as characterize so many mystics of to-day, but the noble mysticism of Eckhart and Tauler, of Jacob Boehme and Frankenberg, and mainly of Valentin Weigel, all of which are founded on a deep philosophical conception.

Mysticism endeavors to solve the problems of existence by sentiment where philosophy offers intellectual statements in abstract formulas, and so we have a con-



trast here between two conceptions. The mystic is sensuous; his religion is all feeling, and he even exhibits a dislike for intellectuality. On the other hand, the intellectualist demands first of all clearness of thought and scorns the sentimentality of the mystic.

This contrast comes out well when we compare a quatrain of Angelus Silesius with one of Schiller's Xenions. Angelus Silesius contemplates with satisfaction that religion appeals to the senses. He says:

"Hope gropeth after God,  
Faith grasps His vision dim;  
Love on His bosom leans,  
Devotion eateth Him."

"Der Glaube greift nach Gott;  
Die Hoffnung nimmt ihn wahr;  
Die Lieb umhalset ihn;  
Die Andacht isst ihn gar."

—III, 230.

How different is Schiller who, though a poet of great force, scorns the sensuality of mystics whom he calls "Theophagi" or God-eaters and censures them in this distich:

**"All is enjoyment with them,  
They eat and they relish ideas.  
E'en into heaven to God  
Spoons they will carry and forks."**

**"Diesen is alles Genuss.  
Sie essen Ideen, und bringen  
In das Himmelreich selbst  
Messer und Gabel hinauf."**

We will not decide between the two views. We simply state the difference and will recognize the right of every one to be as he is. No doubt but there is a danger in mysticism when it revels in symbols and delights in an unstinted display of feeling. On the other hand we must bear in mind that pure intellectualism is as cold as the glaciers of Alpine heights, and in spite of its loftiness it leaves a longing for that warmth of sentiment which so richly pervades mysticism.

\* \* \*

The first edition of the "Cherubinischer Wandersmann" appeared in 1657 and bears a quaint frontispiece which we have reproduced to occupy a similar position in the present edition. It pictures the

soul soaring aloft on an eagle toward a six-pointed star. The sun is the symbol of the Trinity, as indicated by the three marks on its disk. On a cliff at the left side lies a mariners' compass with the inscription, "Es zeigt den rechten Weg," (It points out the right path). Underneath an allegorical figure rings a bell below which we read, "Es wecket auf vom Schlaffe," (It awakens from slumber). On a rock at the right-hand side a hand is seen lighting a candle from a burning taper. The explanation reads, "Es zündt andren," (It kindles for others). The allegorical figure in the lower right-hand corner is taking from a beehive a wafer which is the symbol of the Sacrament, and words underneath declare, "Es speist und schmeckt süsse," (It nourisheth and tasteth sweet). In the background lies a city, the heavenly Jerusalem. On the back of the frontispiece of the first edition we read the verse:

"Ein Mensch der schauet Gott,  
Ein Thier den Erdkloss an;  
Aus diesem, was er sey,  
Ein jeder kennen kann."

"A man beholdeth God,  
A brute the clod of earth;  
Hence every one may know  
His nature and his worth."

\* \* \*

The translator is not a mystic if by mysticism is understood the supremacy of the emotional in the domain of human mentality, or even if the term presupposes the doctrine of agnosticism, that the main problems of philosophy and religion lie outside the pale of human cognition. He believes, however, that the short cut taken by the emotions for the sake of rightly attuning the soul to God is a very helpful expedient by which those natures that lack intellectual power may gain a substitute for truth. His views on this subject have been expressed in a special article in "The Monist" entitled "Mysticism."\* Being in sympathy with such men as Tauler, Eckhart, Scheffler, Boehme and others, he wishes to set forth a typical mystic character and trusts that Angelus Silesius will best serve this purpose.

\* "Monist," XVIII, 75.

Though Angelus Silesius was an extraordinarily zealous Roman Catholic it may appear to most readers very difficult to conciliate his mysticism with Church doctrines, unless it be granted that the Christian dogmas are exoteric and admit of an esoteric interpretation. By the side of the pious fervor which permeates his poems, there is an undercurrent of the most radical thought which, if it were expressed in prose and without the religious intent, would be regarded by many as sheer infidelity. In the same way as in the mysticism of the Friends of God and other mystical movements, Christian dogmas loom up in the background of the thoughts of Angelus Silesius, but to him the dogma is of little importance in comparison to its meaning. We feel that to the mystic it is of no consequence whether the data of the life of Jesus are true or not, but it is of paramount importance to him that God should be born in man's own soul. Our own deification is the whole burden of the story of Christ, and in the same way all the dogmas have no other purpose than to symbolize spiritual

truths to help us actualize them in our own lives.

The God-conception of Angelus Silesius, if expressed in a dry dogmatic formula, appears pure atheism. He speaks of God as a mere naught, and even less than naught; he denies that the deity thinks; he does not believe in providence because God can not see ahead. God is nowhere, and the expression "God is" is a mere "soi disant," a trope, i. e., an expression which can not be taken literally, in the sense in which we speak of ourselves as existing.\* If God could be said to be something he would be such only in name.

The views of self in the "Cherubinean Wanderer" of Angelus Silesius, like the views of other mystics, e. g., the author of "Theologia Germanica," are quite Bud-

\* The use of "eigentlich" in the line here referred to is very idiomatic. When Angelus Silesius says: "Gott ist nur eigentlich," he means: "If we say, 'God is,' the words are to be taken as true, 'nur eigentlich,' i. e., only in a particular sense." The word "eigentlich" is derived from "eigen," i. e., "own," or "proper" and may pretty literally be translated by "properly speaking." The phrase "nicht eigentlich" means "not exactly," and "nur eigentlich," "only in a special sense."

dhistic, and salvation consists in freeing one's self from egotism and all the narrowing limitations of selfhood. We are saved by self-annihilation. Nevertheless the soul of man is divine, provided the idea of selfhood be overcome. Indeed, it is as great as God himself, yea it may be more than God. The Soul is infinite and heaven and earth are too small for it.

In this sense the creation is an actualization of God, and the actualized God may be greater than the God who is still a mere naught. God is within his creatures, and he is God everywhere. From the standpoint of this mystic contemplation all creatures are alike before God; the fly is as important as man himself, and to Him the frog's croaking is as beautiful as the lark's song.

The indifference of God toward all implies that before Him the saint and the sinner are alike, but our deeds are not for that reason indifferent. The divinity of God is realized in us according to the life we lead. Nor must we wait for another life but do our duty here. We conquer the evils of life through not having our

own will, but doing God's will. Death is called our best friend, because he is the liberator from selfhood, and the thought of self—nothing else—is hell. When body and soul are healed (i. e., at the termination of our life) we become God ourselves.

\* \* \*

There is a thoughtful pun in one of the epigrams on time. The balance-wheel of a clock is called "Unruhe" in German, which, literally translated, means "unrest." Time is made, says Angelus Silesius, by the clock-work of our senses; if we stop the balance in us, which is the restlessness of our heart, we stop time itself and live in eternity.

The reader notices that here Angelus Silesius anticipates Kantian idealism. Not only lies the center of the world and all its wealth within ourselves, but even time and space are declared to be functions of the soul. They are parts of our "Weltbegriff," i. e., our conception of the world.

The coincidence of the views of Angelus Silesius with those of Kant seems strange, but both are apparently based



on older traditions. Valentin Weigel propounded the same views before Angelus Silesius and Swedenborg after him, yet before Kant. How far any one of these men has influenced his successors is a question that has caused much discussion.

It is interesting to note that Leibnitz speaks of Angelus Silesius in two passages, comparing his philosophical views to Spinoza's system, and this is perhaps natural for we cannot doubt that our mystic poet has devoted much thought to speculative philosophy.

Yet Angelus Silesius would be no mystic if he rated comprehension higher than sentiment. It is true he prizes only that simplicity of heart which is accompanied with wisdom and scorns that simplicity which is mere stupidity, but he places love higher than knowledge and science, for through love only we gain an immediate admission into God's presence.

\* \* \*

The present edition contains the original German\* but is not intended as a

\* The entire collection consists of six books, and for the benefit of students who may be

contribution to Germanic philology, and therefore we would deem it improper to burden the book with annotations concerning the oddities of Scheffler's language. Upon the whole the spelling of the original has been retained, but in some cases where the sense was not the least affected more modern readings have been preferred.

Any one who is even superficially acquainted with Germanic philology will find no difficulties whatever, but there are a few pitfalls to readers familiar with modern German only, to which we might here quite incidentally call attention. "Witz," "wit," (p. 122) means wisdom, not smartness. "Der Schlaf" (p. 160) is the genitive plural, the grammatical construction being, "Of sleeps there are three kinds." "Gemein" (p. 69 and p. 99) is to be taken in the literal sense "to commune," not in the modern sense, "vulgar."

We must bear in mind the German original with its crude rhymes and archaic interested in comparing original readings, we have inserted after each German quatrain its reference to book and verse of the original collection.

language if we want to appreciate Angelus Silesius in an English translation, and a close study of these epigrams has convinced us that the naïveté of the style is particularly adapted to the thought, both of which we have endeavored to preserve in our English version. We are convinced that no one can read these verses, be he religiously inclined or not, without being interested in the man and in his attitude towards the world.



**THE MYSTERY OF GOD.**







### GOD'S NEED.

We say God needeth naught,  
For gifts He doth not pine;  
If that be true, why wants  
He this poor heart of mine?



Man sagt, Gott mangelt nichts,  
Er darf nicht unsrer Gaben:  
Ists wahr—was will er dann  
Mein armes Herze haben?

—III, 123.





### THE LORD'S PRAYER.

We pray, "O Lord my God,  
Thy will be done, Thy will!"  
And yet no will hath He;  
For e'er and aye He's still.



Wir beten: es gescheh,  
Mein Herr und Gott, dein Wille—  
Und sieh: er hat nicht Will,  
Er ist ein ewge Stille.

—I, 294.





### REST IN WORK.

God resteth not himself,  
Nor in exertion irketh.  
His very work is rest,  
Yet while He rests, He worketh.



Gott hat sich nie bemüht,  
Auch nie geruht, das merk—  
Sein Wirken ist sein Ruhn  
Und seine Ruh sein Werk.  
—IV, 166.







**A MERE NAUGHT.**

God is the purest naught,  
He hath nor now nor here.  
The more thou grop'st for Him,  
The more He'll disappear.



Gott ist ein lauter Nichts,  
Ihn rührt kein Nun noch Hier.  
Je mehr du nach ihm greifst—  
Je mehr entwid er dir.

—I, 25.





### LESS THAN NAUGHT.

The tender Deity  
Is naught and less than naught.  
Who naught in all things sees,  
He finds God whom he sought.



Die zarte Gottheit ist  
Ein Nichts und Uebernichts:  
Wer nichts in allem sieht,  
Mensch, glaube, dieser sights.  
—I, III.





### NO VACILLATION.

God thinketh naught; for if  
He thought, or planned, or wot,  
His mind would vacillate,  
And that behooves Him not.



Mensch, Gott gedenket nichts.  
Ja, wär'n in ihm Gedanken,  
So könnt er hin und her—  
Was ihm nicht zusteht—wanken.  
—V, 173.





### NO PROVIDENCE.

God never looks ahead;  
And thus it is a lie,  
Whene'er to measure Him  
By providence you try.



Gott siehet nichts zuvor—  
Drum lügst du wenn du ihn  
Mit der Vorsehung misst  
Nach deinem blöden Sinn.  
—V, 92.





### **MERE TROPE.**

**Mere trope to say God "is"!  
Nor loves, nor thinketh He  
As creatures, such as I  
And you, are said to be.**



**Gott ist nur eigentlich,  
Er liebt und lebet nicht,  
Wie man von mir und dir  
Und andren Dingen spricht.  
—II, 55.**





### ASKING GIFTS.

Who asketh gifts of God,  
How piteously he strayeth!  
He to a creature, not  
To the Creator prayeth.



Wer Gott um Gaben bitt't,  
Der ist gar übel dran:  
Er betet das Geschöpf  
Und nicht den Schöpfer an.  
—I, 174.





### **LIP SERVICE.**

**Think'st thou, poor man, if thou  
In song thy voice loud raisest,  
That in the proper way  
The quiet God thou praisest?**



**Meinst du, o armer Mensch,  
Dass deines Munds Geschrei  
Der rechte Lobgesang  
Der stillen Gottheit sei?**

**—I, 239.**





### **VIRTUE'S AIM.**

**God is all virtue's end,  
It's mainspring He's likewise.  
He too is virtue's cause,  
He eke is virtue's prize.**



**Gott ist der Tugend Ziel,  
Ihr Antrieb, ihre Kron,  
Ihr einziges Warum  
Und ist auch all ihr Lohn.**

**—IV, 18.**







**THE SOURCE LIES IN US.**

**Thou needst not cry to God,  
The spring wells up in thee.  
Unless thou stop its source,  
'T will flow eternally.**



**Du darfst zu Gott nicht schrein,  
Der Brunnquell ist in dir:  
Stopft'st du den Ausgang nicht,  
Er flösse für und für.**

**—I, 55.**





### NOT WITHOUT ME.

I know, deprived of me,  
God could not live a wink.  
He must give up the ghost  
If into naught I sink.



Ich weiss, dass ohne mich  
Gott nicht ein Nu kann leben:  
Werd ich zu nicht—er muss  
Von Noth den Geist aufgeben.  
—I, 8.





### **EQUAL OBLIGATION.**

**God loves me more than Him;  
Than me I love God more.  
So He gives me as much  
As I to Him restore.**



**Gott liebt mich über sich:  
Lieb ich ihn über mich,  
So geb ich ihm soviel,  
Als er mir gibt aus sich.**

**—I, 18.**





**GOD MINE END.**

God is my final end;  
Does He from me evolve,  
Then He grows out of me,  
While I in Him dissolve.



Gott ist mein letztes End:  
Wenn ich sein Anfang bin,  
So weset er aus mir  
Und ich vergeh in ihn.

—I, 276.





**ALL SENSES ARE BUT ONE.**

In spirit senses are  
One and the same. 'T is true,  
Who seeth God he tastes,  
Feels, smells and hears Him too.



Die Sinne sind im Geist  
All' ein Sinn und Gebrauch:  
Wer Gott beschaut, der schmeckt,  
Fühlt, riecht und hört ihn auch.  
—V, 351.





**THE KNOWN MUST BE THE KNOWER.**

In God nought e'er is known,  
Forever one is He.  
What we in Him e'er know,  
Ourselves must grow and be.



In Gott wird nichts erkannt:  
Er ist ein enig Ein.  
Was man in ihm erkennt,  
Das muss man selber sein.  
—I, 285.





### NON-EXISTENT YET ETERNAL.

God never did exist,  
Nor ever will, yet aye  
He was ere worlds began,  
And when they're gone He'll stay.



Gott ist noch nie gewest  
Und wird auch niemals sein  
Und bleibt doch nach der Welt,  
War auch vor ihr allein.

—II. 31, 181.





### THE TRINITY.

God Father is a point,  
God Son the circuit line,  
And God the Ghost does both  
As area combine.



Gott Vater ist der Punkt;  
Aus ihm fleusst Gott der Sohn,  
Die Linie; Gott der Geist  
Ist beider Fläch und Kron.  
—IV, 62.







### THE OVER-GOD.

What has been said of God  
Does not suffice, I claim.  
The Over-Godhead is  
My life, my light, my aim.



Was man von Gott gesagt,  
Das g'nüget mir noch nicht:  
Die Ueber-Gottheit ist  
Mein Leben und mein Licht.  
—I, 15.





# **ETERNITY AND TIME.**







### **SON OF ETERNITY.**

**I am (what majesty!)  
Eternity's own son;  
By birth a noble king,  
God's glory on a throne.**



**Ich bin—o Majestät!—  
Ein Sohn der Ewigkeit,  
Ein König von Natur,  
Ein Thron der Herrlichkeit.**  
—IV, 226.





### **TIME AND ETERNITY.**

**Who time takes not as time,  
Whose sorrow is no sorrow,  
Whose yest'reen is to-day  
And whose to-day is morrow,  
Who counteth all the same:  
He e'en in time will be  
In the longed for estate  
Of sweet eternity.**





**Wer Zeit nimmt ohne Zeit  
Und Sorgen ohne Sorgen,  
Wem gestern war wie heut  
Und heute gilt, wie morgen,  
Wer alles gleiche schätzt:  
Der tritt schon in der Zeit  
In den gewünschten Stand  
Der lieben Ewigkeit.**





**STILL IN TIME.**

**Here, flow I still in God,  
A brook of time, ywis;  
There, I myself shall be  
The sea of lasting bliss.**



**Hier fleuss ich noch in Gott  
Als eine Bach der Zeit—  
Dort bin ich selbst das Meer  
Der ewgen Seligkeit.**

**—IV, 135.**





**NOT SEEN, NOT HEARD.**

**Go where thou canst not walk;  
See what thou canst not see;  
Hear what is without sound,  
And where God speaks, thou'lt be.**



**Geh hin, wo du nicht kannst,  
Sieh, wo du siehest nicht,  
Hör, wo nichts schallt noch klingt—  
So bist du wo Gott spricht.**

**—I, 199.**







### **GOD IS IN THEE.**

**Stop man! where dost thou run?  
Heav'n lies within thy heart.  
If thou seek'st God elsewhere,  
Misled, in truth, thou art.**



**Halt an! Wo laufst du hin?  
Der Himmel ist in dir.  
Suchst du Gott anderswo,  
Fehlst du ihn für und für.**  
—I, 82.





### **THE HIGHEST GOOD.**

**Rest is the highest good;  
And if God were not rest,  
For Him I'd close mine eyes  
To make Him truly blessed.**



**Ruh ist das höchste Gut—  
Und wäre Gott nicht Ruh,  
Ich schlosse für ihn selbst  
Mein beiden Augen zu.**

**—I, 49.**





### SELF-MOVING.

Naught is that pusheth thee—  
Thyself, thou art the wheel  
Which turneth by itself  
And never rest will feel.



Nichts ist das dich bewegt—  
Du selber bist das Rad,  
Das aus sich selbstn läuft  
Und keine Ruhe hat.

—I, 37.





**TURN WITHIN.**

**Whoe'er his senses turns  
Within his soul, he findeth,  
That what's not said he hears,  
He sees when night him blindeth.**



**Wer seine Sinnen hat  
Ins Innere gebracht,  
Der hört was man nicht redt,  
Und siehet in der Nacht.**

**—V, 129.**





### **TIME'S BALANCE WHEEL.**

**Yourself you make the time,  
Your senses are the clock.  
You stop the balance wheel,  
And time at once you block.**



**Du selber machst die Zeit,  
Das Uhrwerk sind die Sinnen;  
Hemmst du die Unruh nur,  
So ist die Zeit von hinnen.**

**—I, 189.**





### **TIME OUR CONCEPTION.**

**They say that time is swift.  
Whoever saw it fly?  
Within our world of thought  
Unmoved we find time lie.**



**Man sagt, die Zeit ist schnell—  
Wer hat sie sehen fliegen?  
Sie bleibt ja unverrückt  
Im Weltbegriffe liegen.**

**—V, 23.**





**SPACE IS WITHIN.**

**Thou art not in a place,  
The place thou'lt find in thee.  
Discard it, and e'en now  
Appears eternity.**



**Nicht du bist in dem Ort,  
Der Ort, der ist in dir:  
Wirfst du ihn aus, so steht  
Die Ewigkeit schon hier.**  
—I, 185.





**SUB SPECIE ÆTERNITATIS.**

No after nor before!  
What shall to-morrow be  
In its true essence, God  
Sees in eternity.



Es ist kein Vor noch Nach:  
Was morgen soll geschehn,  
Hat Gott von Ewigkeit  
Schon wesentlich gesehn.

—II, 182.







### OUR DOUBLE NATURE.

Two eyes our souls possess:  
While one is turned on time,  
The other seeth things  
Eternal and sublime.



Zwei Augen hat die Seel:  
Eins schauet in die Zeit,  
Das andre richtet sich  
Hin in die Ewigkeit.

—III, 228.





**SEEK ETERNITY IN TIME.**

Eternity is time  
And time eternity,  
Except when we ourselves  
Would make them different be.



Zeit ist wie Ewigkeit  
Und Ewigkeit wie Zeit,  
So du nur selber nicht  
Machst einen Unterscheid.  
—I, 47.





**RISE ABOVE GOD.**

**"Where is my residence?"  
Where I nor you can stand.  
"Where is the final end  
Where I at last shall land?"  
'T is where no end is found:  
"And whither must I press?"  
Above God I must pass,  
Into the wilderness.**





**Wo ist mein Aufenthalt?  
Wo ich und du nicht stehen.  
Wo ist mein letztes End,  
In welches ich soll gehen?  
Da, wo man keines find't.  
Wo soll ich denn nun hin?  
Ich muss noch über Gott  
In eine Wüste ziehn.**

**—I, 7.**





**NO SUCCESSION THERE.**

**Things in eternity  
Are all at once in prime,  
No after nor before  
Is there, as here in time.**



**Dort in der Ewigkeit  
Geschiehet all's zugleich,  
Es ist kein vor noch nach  
Wie hier im Zeitenreich.**

**—V, 148.**





### **THE WORLD IS ETERNAL.**

**Since the Eternal God  
Made in eternity  
The world, it's clear as day  
That it eternal be.**



**Weil Gott, der ewige,  
Die Welt schuf ausser Zeit,  
So ist's ja sonnenklar,  
Dass sie von Ewigkeit.**

**—V, 146.**





### **DEAD IN LIFE.**

**The sage will never die?  
Why, dead e'en now is he;  
Alive alone in God,  
Dead to all vanity.**



**Der Weise stirbt nicht mehr?  
Er ist zuvor schon tot,  
Tot aller Eitelkeit,  
Tot allem, was nicht Gott.**  
—VI, 241.





**GOD IN HIS WORKS.**









### **GOD'S BECOMING.**

**The uncreated God  
In time grows here to be  
What ne'er He could become  
In all eternity.**



**Der ungewordne Gott  
Wird mitten in der Zeit,  
Was er nie war noch ward  
In aller Ewigkeit.**

**—IV, 1.**





## **DIVINA COMMEDIA**

**This all is but a play  
Made by the Deity,  
Who for His very sake  
Designed creatures to be.**



**Dies Alles ist ein Spiel,  
Das sich die Gottheit macht:  
Sie hat die Creatur  
Um ihretwilln erdacht.**

**—II, 198.**





### **GOD'S SYMBOL.**

**What in eternity  
God wants and has devised,  
His thoughts in me He now  
Beholdeth symbolized.**



**Was Gott in Ewigkeit  
Begehrn und wünschen kann,  
Das schauet er in mir  
Als seinem Gleichnis an.**  
—I, 272.





### **GOD'S LUTE.**

**A heart that to God's will  
Submits in patience mute,  
Loves to be touched by Him:  
It serves God as His lute.**



**Ein Herze das zu Grund  
Gott still ist, wie er will,  
Wird gern von ihm berührt—  
Es ist sein Lautenspiel.**

**—V, 366.**





### **GOD ACTUALIZED.**

**God is indeed pure naught,  
Yet if He something were,  
He'd only be't in me,  
His chosen minister.**



**Gott ist wahrhaftig nichts,  
Und so er etwas ist,  
So ist er's nur in mir,  
Wie er mich ihm erkiest.**

**—I, 200.**





### NOT EVEN PRAISE.

How blessed is the man  
Who willeth not nor knoweth,  
And who—hear me aright!—  
On God no praise bestoweth.



Wie selig ist der Mensch,  
Der weder will noch weiss,  
Der Gott—versteht mich recht!—  
Nicht giebet Lob noch Preis.  
—I, 19.





### **THE GLORIA.**

**Whoever with one glance  
Above himself can soar,  
He with God's angels can  
Sing Gloria evermore.**



**Wer sich nur einen Blick  
Kann über sich erschwingen,  
Der kann das Gloria  
Mit Gottes Engeln singen.**

**—II, 72.**







### **GOD-INSPIRED.**

**The Godhead is the sap  
By which I grow and blow;  
Its holy spirit 'tis  
That me inspireth so!**



**Die Gottheit ist mein Saft—  
Was aus mir grünt und blüht,  
Das ist ihr heilger Geist,  
Durch den der Trieb geschieht.  
—I, 90.**





### ONE WITH GOD.

God is in me the fire,  
And I, beam of his light.  
Thus we together are,  
And closely we unite.



Gott ist in mir das Feuer—  
Und ich in ihm der Schein:  
Sind wir einander nicht  
Ganz inniglich gemein?

—I, 11.





**BE LIKE HIM.**

God is eternal rest,—  
For naught e'er willeth He.  
If naught thou willest, thou  
As much as God shalt be.



Gott ist die ewge Ruh,  
Weil er nichts sucht noch will—  
Willst du ingleichen nichts,  
So bist du eben viel.

—I, 76.





### WITHOUT WHY.

The rose is without why.  
It blows because it blows.  
It thinks not of itself,  
And no display it shows.



Die Ros' ist ohn Warum,  
Sie blühet weil sie blühet;  
Sie acht nicht ihrer selbst,  
Fragt nicht, ob man sie siehet.  
—I, 289.





**FROM ALL ETERNITY.**

**The rose which here unto  
Thine outer eye is shown,  
From all eternity  
Thus in God's sight hath blown.**



**Die Rose, welche hier  
Dein äussres Auge sieht,  
Die hat von Ewigkeit  
In Gott also geblüht.**

**—I, 108.**





### **TOO NARROW.**

**The world too narrow is  
For me, and Heav'n too small.  
Where then for this my soul  
Shall I find room at all?**



**Die Welt ist mir zu eng,  
Der Himmel ist zu klein:  
Wo wird doch noch ein Raum  
Für meine Seele sein?**

**—I, 187.**





### **THE CENTER.**

**The circle in a point  
Lies centered, fruit in seed,  
God in the world. Who seeks  
Him there is wise indeed.**



**Der Umkreis ist im Punkt,  
Im Samen liegt die Frucht,  
Gott in der Welt—wie klug  
Ist, der ihn drinnen sucht.**  
—IV, 158.





## **GOD'S CREATURES.**









### **FREEDOM OF WILL.**

**Naught stronger is than God,  
Yet can He not forbend,  
That I whate'er I will  
Should not will nor intend.**



**Nichts stärkres ist als Gott—  
Doch kann er nicht verwehren,  
Dass ich nicht, was ich will,  
Soll wollen und begehren.**

**—V, 98.**





### **ENCOMPASSED BY GOD.**

**Creatures are more in God  
Than in themselves they be.  
When gone, they shall remain  
In Him eternally.**



**Die Creatur ist mehr  
In Gotte, denn in ihr—  
Zerwird sie, bleibt sie doch  
In ihm noch für und für.**  
—I, 193.





### **CHANTING HIS PRAISE.**

**Naught is without a voice;  
And God in million ways  
In all His creatures hears  
The echoes of His praise.**



**Nichts weset ohne Stimm:  
Gott höret überall,  
In aller Creatur  
Sein Lob und Widerhall.**

**—I, 264.**





**PERMIT DIFFERENCE.**

The nightingale will not  
The cookoo's note deride,  
But if my song be not  
Like yours, you scoff and chide.



Ich weiss, die Nachtigall  
Straft nicht des Kuckucks Ton,  
Du aber, sing ich nicht  
Wie du, sprichst meinem Hohn.  
—I, 266.





**WE HUMANS.**

**Why can we humans not  
Like unto little birds  
Shout all harmoniously  
Our different songs and words?**



**Ach dass wir Menschen nicht  
Wie die Waldvögelein,  
Ein jeder seinen Ton  
Mit Lust zusammen schrein!**

**—I, 265.**





### **THE VOICE OF THE WORD.**

**All creatures are the voice  
Of the eternal Word.  
With grace or wrath it sings  
Itself, and thus 'tis heard.**



**Die Creaturen sind  
Des ewgen Wortes Stimme:  
Es singt und klingt sich selbst  
In Anmuth und im Grimme.**  
—I, 270.





### NO PREFERENCE.

God hath no preference,  
With all He is in tune.  
As gladly with the fly  
As thee, doth He commune.



Gott hat nicht Unterscheid,  
Es ist ihm alles ein:  
Er machet sich so viel  
Der Flieg, als dir gemein.  
—I, 127.







### THE FROG AND THE LARK.

Unto the croak of frogs  
With equal care God harks,  
As to the joyous song  
Of soaring meadow larks.



Gott giebet so genau  
Auf das Koaxen acht,  
Als auf das Tiriliern,  
Das ihm die Lerche macht.  
—I, 269.





**THE SAME TO GOD.**

**All works are same to God;  
He loves the saint while drinking  
As much as when in prayer  
Upon his knees he's sinking.**



**Gott sind die Werke gleich:  
Der Heilge, wann er trinkt,  
Gefället ihm so wohl,  
Als wann er bet't und singt.**  
—V, 170.





### **THE CREATOR'S REST.**

**From first beginning 'til  
To-day, a creature's quest  
Has never been aught else  
Than its creator's rest.**



**Vom ersten Anbeginn  
Und noch bis heute zu  
Sucht das Geschöpfe nichts,  
Als seines Schöpfers Ruh.**

**—I, 110.**





### THE WORLD.

Friend, envy not the world!  
Although its fate, you see,  
Is its own wish and deed,  
It is a tragedy.



Freund, gönne es doch der Welt!  
Ihr gehts zwar, wie sie will—  
Doch ist ihr ganzes Thun  
Nichts als ein Trauerspiel.

—V, 141.





### SAINT AND SINNER.

The saint is rising higher ;  
He's changed to God in God ;  
The sinner downward sinks,  
Is changed to dirt and clod.



Der Heilge steigt auf  
Und wird ein Gott in Gott,  
Der Sünder fällt herab  
Und wird zu Mist und Koth.  
—VI, 29.





### **GENUINE WEALTH.**

**To own much is not wealth,  
For he is rich alone  
Who losing all he hath  
Will not his loss bemoan.**



**Viel haben macht nicht reich!  
Der ist ein reicher Mann,  
Der alles, was er hat,  
Ohn Leid verlieren kann.**

**—VI, 167.**





### **LAUGH AND WEEP.**

**Indeed, who of this world  
Has taken the right view,  
Must be Democritus  
And Heraclitus too.**



**Fürwahr, wer diese Welt  
Recht nimmt in Augenschein,  
Muss bald Democritus,  
Bald Heraclitus sein.**

**—VI, 223.**





**RAY OF HIS LIGHT.**

**Am not outside of God  
Nor He outside of me!  
Am His effulgent light;  
Source of my glory He.**



**Ich bin nicht ausser Gott,  
Und Gott nicht ausser mir;  
Ich bin sein Glanz und Licht,  
Und er ist meine Zier.**

**—I, 106.**







**GREAT AS GOD.**

I am as great as God,  
He is as small as I.  
He can't above me stand,  
Nor I beneath Him lie.



Ich bin so gross als Gott—  
Er ist als ich so klein.  
Er kann nicht über mich—  
Ich unter ihm nicht sein.  
—I, 10.





**OWNHOOD, OTHERHOOD, GOD-  
HOOD.**







### **PERFECT BEATITUDE.**

**Man never will possess  
Perfect beatitude,  
Until what single is  
Swallows all otherhood.**



**Der Mensch hat eher nicht  
Vollkommne Seligkeit,  
Bis dass die Einheit hat  
Verschluckt die Anderheit.**

**—IV, 10.**





**NOT FOR THYSELF.**

Rain rains not for itself,  
Nor to himself adorn  
Shineth the sun; so thou  
Not for thyself art born.



Der Regen fällt nicht ihm,  
Die Sonne scheint nicht ihr—  
Du auch bist anderen  
Geschaffen und nicht dir.

—IV, 186.





### THE ORIGIN OF EVIL.

Communion giveth rest.  
It is from ownhood's state  
That pains and woes arise,  
War, persecution, hate.



Mittheilen schaffet Ruh.  
Blos aus der Eigenheit  
Entstehet alles Weh:  
Verfolgung, Krieg und Streit.  
—V, 186.





### **MINE AND THINE.**

**Naught else will ever thee  
To hell's deep jaws consign,  
Than the cursed heinous thought,  
Take heed!—"The mine and thine."**



**Nichts andres stürzet dich  
In Höllenschlund hinein,  
Als das verhasste Wort—  
Merks wohl!—das Mein und Dein.  
—V, 238.**





### **DISCARD THYSELF.**

**The more thou thine own self  
Out of thyself dost throw,  
The more will into thee  
God with His Godhood flow.**



**Je mehr du dich aus dir  
Kannst aushun und entgiessen:  
Je mehr muss Gott in dich  
Mit seiner Gottheit fliessen.**

**—I, 138.**







**LET GOD ENTER.**

**Walk out, God walketh in;  
To God live, die to thee;  
Do naught, thy duty's done;  
Be not, and God will be.**



**Geh aus, so geht Gott ein:  
Stirb dir, so lebst du Gott:  
Sei nicht, so ist es er—  
Thu nichts, so g'schicht's Gebot.**

**—II, 136.**





**EMPTY YET FILLED.**

No exit but t'will cause  
To enter a new start;  
I empty mine own self,  
God comes to fill my heart.



Kein Ausgang, der geschieht,  
Als um des Eingangs willen—  
Mein Herz entschüttet sich,  
Dass Gott es an soll füllen.

—V, 14.





### **NO DIFFERENCE.**

**A man of mind composed  
Is always one and free.  
How, between God and him,  
Can there a diff'rence be?**



**Ein grundgelassner Mensch  
Ist ewig frei und ein—  
Kann auch ein Unterschied  
An ihm und Gotte sein?**

**—II, 141.**





### **PARTS OF GOD.**

**The sea is sea throughout,  
E'en finest spray of sea.  
Say how in God pure souls  
Aught else but God may be!**



**Im Meer ist alles Meer,  
Auchs kleinste Tröpflein—  
Sag, welche heilige Seel  
In Gott nicht Gott wird sein.  
—VI, 173**





### CLAMORING FOR GOD.

My spirit's deep abyss  
Clamors with much ado  
For God's abyss. Now which  
Is deeper of the two?



Der Abgrund meines Geists  
Ruft immer mit Geschrei  
Den Abgrund Gottes an.—  
Sag: welcher tiefer sei?

—I, 68.





### **HATRED FOR HATRED.**

**He who before the Lord  
With envy comes and hate,  
Will hatred with his prayers  
And envy impetrate.**



**Mensch, wer mit Hass und Neid  
Vor Gott den Herrn will treten,  
Der wird sich anders nichts  
Als Hass und Neid erbeten.**

**—VI, 163.**





**IT IS THY WILL.**

Thy will 't is makes thee damned,  
Thy will that makes thee saved;  
Thy will that sets thee free,  
Thy will makes thee enslaved.



Der Will macht dich verlorn,  
Der Will macht dich gefunden,  
Der Will, der macht dich frei,  
Gefesselt und gebunden.

—VI, 82.





### ONE MEASURE FOR ALL.

What you for others wish,  
You for yourself suggest.  
If you don't wish them well,  
Your own death you request.



Was du dem Nächsten willst,  
Das bittst du dir von Gott:  
Willst du nicht sein Gedeih'n,  
So bittst du dir den Tod.

—VI, 164.







### CROSSING THE SEA.

Oh run for wisdom not,  
Nor wit, across the sea.  
On love alone depends  
The soul's true dignity.



Ach, lauf doch nicht nach Witz  
Und Weisheit übers Meer—  
Der Seelen Würdigkeit  
Kommt blos von Liebe her.

—V, 291.





### **WEALTH WITHIN.**

**Thy wealth in thee must lie.  
What thou hast not in thee,  
Were it the whole great world,  
A burden would it be.**



**In dir muss Reichthum sein—  
Was du nicht in dir hast,  
Wärs auch die ganze Welt,  
Ist dir nur eine Last.**

**—VI, 185.**





**ALL MUST BE ONE.**

**Plurality God loathes,  
Therefore hath He decreed  
That all men should in Christ  
Be only one indeed.**



**Der Vielheit ist Gott feind:  
Drum zieht er uns so ein,  
Dass alle Menschen soll'n  
In Christo einer sein.**

**—V, 149.**





### **THE GREATEST DANGER.**

**Beware man of thyself,  
Self's burden thou wilt rue.  
It will impair thee more  
Than thousand devils do.**



**Mensch, hüte dich vor dir!  
Wirst du mit dir beladen,  
Du wirst dir selber mehr  
Als tausend Teufel schaden.**  
—V, 144.





### **THREE ENEMIES.**

**Three enemies has man:  
Himself, Satan, the world;  
The first will be the last  
That to the ground is hurled.**



**Drei Feinde hat der Mensch:  
Sich, Belzebub und Welt:  
Aus diesen wird der erst  
Am langsamsten gefällt.**  
—III, 233.





### **COMMUNISM IN HEAVEN.**

**In Heaven life is good:  
No one has aught alone.  
What one possesses, there  
All others too will own.**



**Im Himmel lebt man wohl:  
Niemand hat was allein,  
Was einer hat, das ist  
Den Selgen all'n gemein.**  
—V, 150.





## THE NATURE OF BLISS.

A soul redeemed and blessed  
No more knows otherhood.  
It is with God one light  
And one beatitude.



Die selge Seele weiss  
Nichts mehr von Anderheit,  
Sie ist ein Licht mit Gott  
Und eine Herrlichkeit.

—IV, 181.





**THE IMITATION OF CHRIST.**









**BETHLEHEM IN THEE.**

**Had Christ a thousand times  
Been born in Bethlehem  
But not in thee, thy sin  
Would still thy soul condemn.**



**Wird Christus tausendmal  
Zu Bethlehem geboren  
Und nicht in dir: du bleibst  
Noch ewiglich verloren.**  
—I, 6r.





### THE BIRTH OF GOD.

God as a child is born  
In stillest, darkest night,  
Whereby He has restored  
What's lost by Adam's plight.  
Thus in a creature dark,  
Here in thy soul so still,  
God is becoming man  
And that will mend all ill.





**Merk: in der stillen Nacht  
Wird Gott—ein Kind—geboren,  
Und wiederum ersetzt,  
Was Adam hat verloren.  
Ist deine Seele still  
Und dem Geschöpfe Nacht,  
So wird Gott in dir Mensch  
Und alles widerbracht.**

**—III, 8.**





**THYSELF MUST RISE.**

I say it speeds thee not  
That Christ rose from the grave,  
So long as thou art still  
To death and sin a slave.



Ich sag, es hilft dir nicht,  
Dass Christus auferstanden,  
Wo du noch liegen bleibst  
In Sünd und Todesbanden.  
—I, 63.





### **CRUCIFY THYSELF.**

**Golgotha's cross from sin  
Can never ransom thee,  
Unless in thine own soul  
It should erected be.**



**Das Kreuz zu Golgatha  
Kann dich nicht von dem Bösen,  
Wo es nicht auch in dir  
Wird aufgericht't, erlösen.**

**—I, 62.**





### **CHRIST'S RESURRECTION.**

**The resurrection is  
In spirit done in thee,  
As soon as thou from all  
Thy sins hast set thee free.**



**Die Auferstehung ist  
Im Geiste schon geschehn,  
Wenn du dich lässt entwirkelt  
Von deinen Sünden sehn.**

**—IV, 55.**





### **CHRIST'S ASCENSION.**

**Thou must above thee rise  
All else leave to God's grace:  
Then Christ's ascension will  
Within thy soul take place.**



**Wann du dich über dich  
Erhebst und lässt Gott walten,  
So wird in deinem Geist  
Die Himmelfahrt gehalten.**

**—IV, 56.**







**FULFIL CHRIST'S WORK.**

**Man, thou shalt be St. Paul!  
In thee must be fulfilled  
What Christ has left undone  
And where wrath shall be stilled.**



**Mensch, du sollst Paulus sein  
Und in dir selbst erfüllen,  
Was Christus nicht gethan,  
Wo sich der Zorn soll stillen.**  
—V, 160.





**SELF-WILL MAN'S FALL.**

Were e'en in Christ Himself,  
Some little will at all,  
However blessed He be,  
Surely from grace he'd fall.



Auch Christus, wär in ihm  
Ein kleiner eigner Wille,  
Wie selig er auch ist,  
Mensch, glaube mir, er fiele.  
—V, 32.





## HOW TO WORSHIP.

The highest worship is  
Like unto God to grow,  
Christlike to be in life,  
In habit, and love's glow.



Der höchste Gottesdienst  
Ist, Gotte gleiche werden,  
Christförmig sein an Lieb,  
Am Leben und Geberden.  
—IV, 150.





### **WHO IS LIKE THE LORD?**

**Like unto Christ is he  
Who truly loves his foe,  
For persecutors prays,  
And renders good for woe.**



**Wer ist dem Herren gleich?  
Der seine Feinde liebt,  
Für die Verfolger bitt't  
Und Gut's um Böses giebt.**  
—III, 237.





### **GOD'S KISS.**

**God kisseth but Himself.  
His Spirit is His kiss;  
The Son 't is who is kissed,  
The Father who does this.**



**Gott küsst sich in sich selbst,  
Sein Kuss, der ist sein Geist,  
Der Sohn ist, den er küsst,  
Der Vater, der's geleist't.**

**—VI, 238.**





## **SANCTIFICATION.**







**NOW AND HERE.**

**Here must our deeds be done!  
I don't believe such thing  
That who no kingdom wins  
Can ever be a king.**



**Hier muss es sein gethan!  
Ich bilde mir nicht ein,  
Dass, wer kein Reich erwirbt,  
Dort wird ein König sein.**

**—V, 89.**







### UNBURDENED.

Thy bundle throw away!  
Who wants to war and fight,  
Must bear no bag of gold;  
His shoulders must be light.



Wirf das Gebündle weg!  
Wer streiten soll und kriegem,  
Dem muss kein Sack voll Geld  
Auf seinen Achseln liegen.  
—VI, 67.





### SOLITUDE.

There's need of solitude!  
But wilt thou not commune,  
Thou'rt lonely everywhere  
As in a desert soon.



Die Einsamkeit ist noth,  
Doch sei nur nicht gemein,  
So kannst du überall  
In einer Wüsten sein.

—II, 117.





### CONTEMPLATION.

You will have heav'n on earth,  
The sweetest life to live,  
If you yourself with love  
To contemplation give.



Der Himmel auf der Welt,  
Das allersüss'ste Leben  
Ist, der Beschaulichkeit  
Aus Liebe sein ergeben.

—V, 257.





**SMALL IS THE DOOR.**

Becom'st thou not a child,  
Thou enter'st not at all  
Where God's own children are;  
The door is much too small.



Mensch, wirst du nicht ein Kind,  
So gehst du nimmer ein,  
Wo Gottes Kinder sind—  
Die Thür ist gar zu klein.

—I, 153.





### WISE SIMPLICITY.

Simplicity I prize  
If God hath giv'n it wit;  
Unwise simplicity  
Deserves the name no whit.



Die Einfalt schätz ich hoch,  
Der Gott hat Witz beschert—  
Die aber den nicht hat,  
Ist nicht des Namens werth.

—V, 286.





### TRUE SIMPLICITY.

Simplicity means, not  
To be on baseness bent;  
But in the cause of good  
Humbly be diligent.



Der Einfalt Eigenschaft  
Ist, nichts von Schalkheit wissen,  
Aufs Gute blos allein  
In Demuth sein beflissen.

—V, 287.





### **TURN TO NAUGHT.**

**Above thee lifteth thee  
But nihilatedness.  
Who most is turned to naught  
Will most of God possess.**



**Nichts bringt dich über dich,  
Als die Vernichtigkeit,  
Wer mehr vernichtigt ist,  
Der hat mehr Göttlichkeit.**

**—II, 140.**





### **MORE GOD THAN MAN.**

**Who without feeling loves,  
Without cognition knoweth:  
He is more God than man  
And by that name he goeth.**



**Wer ohn Empfinden liebt  
Und ohn Erkennen kennt,  
Der wird mit gutem Recht  
Mehr Gott als Mensch genennt.  
—II, 59.**







**IMMOVABLE.**

Whoso immovable  
In joy and pain hath proved,  
From God's own likeness he  
Can not be far removed.



Wer unbeweglich bleibt  
In Freud, in Leid, in Pein,  
Der kann nunmehr nicht weit  
Von Gottes Gleichheit sein.  
—I, 51.





**RISE BY DESCENDING.**

**Descend, man, sink thee down:  
Thou risest from thy place.  
Cease thou from further walk:  
At once begins thy race.**



**Mensch senke dich herab—  
So steigest du hinauf;  
Lass ab von deinem Gehn—  
So fängt sich an dein Lauf.**  
—V, 278.





### THE SILKWORM.

What shame! The silkworm works  
And works till he can fly,  
While you remain a man  
And still on earth will lie.



O Spott: ein Seidenwurm,  
Der wirkt, bis er kann fliegen,  
Und du bleibst, wie du bist,  
Nur auf der Erde liegen!  
—VI, 32.





### THE CHRISTIAN IDEAL.

Pure as the finest gold,  
As rock so rigid hard  
And clear as crystal, keep  
The soul within thy guard.



Rein wie das feinste Gold,  
Steif wie ein Felsenstein,  
Ganz lauter wie Cristall,  
Soll dein Gemüthe sein.

—I, 1.





### HOW TO BECOME GOD.

If neither love nor pain  
Will ever touch thy heart,  
Then only God's in thee,  
And then in God thou art.



Mensch, wann dich weder Lieb  
Berührt, noch Leid verletzt,  
So bist du recht in Gott  
Und Gott in dich versetzt.

—I, 293.





### SOLITUDE DIVINE.

Who not with others bides  
And always lives alone,  
If he's not God himself,  
Must into God have grown.



Wer stets alleine lebt  
Und niemand wird gemein,  
Der muss, ist er nicht Gott,  
Gewiss vergöttet sein.

—II, 202.





**RISE ABOVE YOURSELF.**

**Man should not stay a man:  
His aim should higher be.  
For God will only gods  
Accept as company.**



**Mensch, bleib doch nicht ein Mensch:  
Man muss auf's höchste kommen,  
Bei Gotte werden nur  
Die Götter angenommen.**

**—V, 219.**





### **NO MEDIATION.**

**Let mediation go!  
If I'm to see my light,  
I want before my face  
No wall to check my sight.**



**Weg mit dem Mittelweg!  
Soll ich mein Licht anschauen,  
So muss man keine Wand  
Vor mein Gesichte bauen.**

**—II, 43.**







**CHANGED THROUGH LOVE.**

To what thou lov'st thou shalt  
Be changed through thine own dearth;  
To God, if thou lov'st God,  
To earth, if thou lov'st earth.



Mensch, was du liebst, in das  
Wirst du verwandelt werden:  
Gott wirst du, liebst du Gott,  
Und Erde, liebst du Erden.

—V, 200.





**PREPARED FOR ANY FATE.**

**Who without God as well  
As with Him e'er can be,  
He is at any rate  
A hero verily.**



**Wer Gott so leicht entbehr'n,  
Als leicht empfangen kann,  
Der ist auf allen Fall  
Ein rechter Heldenmann.**

**—V, 367.**





### **THE HIGHEST ABANDON.**

**Abandon winneth God.  
But to abandon God  
Is an abandonment  
Which must seem very odd.**



**Gelassenheit fäht Gott:  
Gott aber selbst zu lassen,  
Ist ein Gelassenheit,  
Die wenig Menschen fassen.**  
—II, 92.





### THE HEART'S SHAPE.

My heart below is strait,  
On top 't is wide and stout.  
It must have room for God,  
But earthly things keep out.



Mein Herz is unten eng  
Und obenher so weit,  
Dass es Gott offen sei,  
Versperrt der Irdischkeit.  
—II, 82.





### **BE CHRIST HIMSELF.**

**God's veritable son  
Is Christ and he alone.  
But every Christian must  
Be Christ, this only one.**



**Der wahre Gottessohn  
Ist Christus nur allein;  
Doch muss ein jeder Christ  
Derselbe Christus sein.**

**—V, 9.**





LOVE.







### PHILOSOPHER'S STONE.

Love is the sage's stone;  
It takes gold from the clod;  
It turns naught into aught,  
Transforms me into God.



Lieb' ist der Weisen Stein:  
Sie scheidet Gold aus Koth,  
Sie machet Nichts zu Ichts  
Und wandelt mich in Gott.  
—I, 244.







**A TEST OF LOVE.**

Would'st thou discern which Love  
Be false, which true and pure,  
Observe: false love seeks self—  
Will not in grief endure.



Willst du die falsche Lieb  
Von wahrer unterscheiden,  
So schau: sie sucht sich selbst  
Und fället ab in Leiden.

—V, 303.





### OLD LOVE.

Young love storms like new wine  
In wildest fermentation.  
Old love is still and clear,  
Strong through tranquilization.



Die Liebe, wenn sie neu,  
Braust wie ein junger Wein:  
Je mehr sie alt und klar,  
Je stiller wird sie sein.

—V, 210.





**IN ETERNITY.**

**What did eternal God  
Before time had begun?  
He loved Himself und thus  
Begot He God, the Son.**



**Was that Gott vor der Zeit  
In seinem ewgen Thron?  
Er liebete sich selbst  
Und zeugte seinen Sohn.**

**—III, 175.**





**THE ROYAL ROAD TO GOD.**

**The nearest way to God  
Leads through love's open door;  
The path of knowledge is  
Too slow for evermore.**



**Der nächste Weg zu Gott  
Ist durch der Liebe Thür,  
Der Weg der Wissenschaft  
Bringt dich gar langsam für.**  
—V, 320.





### **LOVE'S PREROGATIVE.**

**Into God's presence Love  
Quite unannounced will burst,  
While wit and learnedness  
Must antechamber first.**



**Die Liebe geht zu Gott  
Unangesagt hinein—  
Verstand und hoher Witz  
Muss lang im Vorhof sein.**  
—V, 307.





### THE BRIDE'S KISS.

With but one kiss the bride  
Deserveth more of God  
Than hirelings may earn  
However much they plod.



Die Braut verdient sich mehr  
Mit einem Kuss um Gott,  
Als alle Miethlinge  
Mit Arbeit bis in Tod.

—V, 299.





### THE VIRGIN SOUL.

If thy soul virgin be,  
And like Maria pure,  
It soon will pregnant be  
As God's own paramour.



Ist deine Seele Magd  
Und wie Maria rein,  
So muss sie augenblicks  
Von Gotte schwanger sein.  
—II, 104.





### **MYSTIC MARRIAGE.**

**Will pregnant be of God:  
His spirit verily  
O'ershadow must my soul  
To quicken God in me.**



**Ich muss Gott's schwanger sein:  
Sein Geist muss ob mir schweben  
Und Gott in meiner Seel  
Wahrhaftig machen leben.**

**—II, 101.**







**LOVE MAKETH BOLD.**

Love maketh bold; and he  
Who God, the Lord, will kiss,  
With love alone should kneel  
Before His throne of Bliss.



Die Liebe macht uns kühn:  
Wer Gott den Herrn will küssen,  
Der fället ihm nur bloss  
Mit seiner Lieb zu Füßen.

—VI, 245.





**THE BRIDE OF GOD.**

**Child, be the bride of God,  
And be thou His alone.  
Thou shalt His sweetheart be,  
As He's thy lover grown.**



**Kind, werde Gottes Braut,  
Entbeut dich ihm allein;  
Du wirst sein's Herzens Schatz  
Und er dein Liebster sein.**  
—II, 108.





### THE PLACE OF MANKIND.

The angels are in bliss,  
But better is man's life,  
For no one of their kind  
Can ever be God's wife.



Den Engeln geht es wohl;  
Noch besser uns auf Erden,  
Denn keiner ihr's Geschlechts  
Kann Gott's Gemahlin werden.  
—III, 121.





### BETTER THAN ANGELS.

You ask what manhood is?  
'T is plainly understood,  
For in a word it is  
The Over-angelhood.



Fragst du, was Menschheit sei?  
Ich sage dir bereit:  
Es ist, mit einem Wort,  
Die Ueber-Engelheit.

—II, 44.





**DO NOT MIND EVEN GOD.**

Thou wishest to behold,  
O bride, the bridegroom's face;  
Pass by God and all else,  
And thou wilt Him embrace.



Braut, suchest du zu schaun  
Des Bräutigams Angesicht,  
Geh Gott und all's fürbei,  
So fehlet dir es nicht.

—V, 269.





**IN LOVE WITH GOD.**

**The God-enraptured man—  
One only pain hath he;  
He can not soon enough  
With God his Lover be.**



**Der gottverliebte Mensch  
Hat sonst keine Pein,  
Als dass er nicht kann bald  
Bei Gott dem Liebsten sein.  
—IV, 125.**





**GOD'S SOLE BLISS.**

To bear a child is joy:  
God's sole bliss is that He  
Brings forth His only Son  
From all eternity.



Gebärn ist selig sein.  
Gotts ein'ge Seligkeit  
Ist, dass er seinen Sohn  
Gebiert von Ewigkeit.

—VI, 132.





## DEATH.









### LOVE LIKE DEATH.

Like unto Death is Love;  
It deadens all my sense,  
It breaks in me my heart  
And leads my spirit hence.



Die Lieb ist wie der Tod:  
Sie tötet meine Sinnen,  
Sie brichet mir das Herz  
Und führt den Geist von hinnen.  
—IV, 29.





### THREE KINDS OF SLEEP.

Of sleep there are three kinds:  
Sinners are death-oppressed,  
The faint in nature lie,  
In God true lovers re st.



Der Schlaf ist dreierlei:  
Der Sünder schläft im Tod,  
Der Müd' in der Natur,  
Und der Verliebt' in Gott.  
—V, 248.





### **SURSUM.**

If thou art great, my friend,  
Then do not stop nor stay:  
From one light, thou must go  
Unto another day.



Freund, so du etwas bist,  
So bleib doch ja nicht stehn:  
Man muss aus einem Licht  
Fort in das andre gehn.  
—III, 232.





### ETERNAL BEING.

What I became I was,  
What I have been I'll be.  
Such, soul and body healed,  
I'll be eternally.



Ich ward das was ich war,  
Und bin, was ich gewesen,  
Und werd es ewig sein,  
Wann Leib und Seel genesen.  
—I, 203.





**BE ESSENTIAL.**

**Man should essential be;  
For, when this world is gone,  
All accident is past,  
The essence still lives on.**



**Mensch werde wesentlich;  
Denn, wenn die Welt vergeht,  
So fällt der Zufall weg—  
Das Wesen, das besteht.**  
—II, 30.





### HELL MUST BE TASTED.

O Christian, once must thou  
Down into Hell be led.  
If not while still in life,  
Then goest there when dead.



Christ, einmal muss man doch  
Im Schlund der Höllen sein:  
Gehst du nicht lebendig,  
So musst du tot hinein.

—V, 263.





### BECOMING ESSENCE.

All accident must go,  
And false appearance, too.  
Essence thou must become  
Without an earthly hue.



Der Zufall muss hinweg  
Und aller falsche Schein—  
Du musst ganz wesentlich  
Und ungefärbet sein!  
—I, 274.







**ANYWHERE.**

Trust me, my friend, if God  
Should bid me not to dwell  
In Heaven, I'd stay here  
Or be as lief in Hell.



Freund, glaub es: heisst mich Gott  
Nicht in den Himmel gehn,  
So will ich lieber hier,  
Auch in der Höllen stehn.

—II, 133.





**FROM OPPOSITES.**

**Who would expect it so?  
From darkness light is brought,  
Life rises out of Death, and  
Something comes from Naught.**



**Wer hätte das vermeint!  
Aus Finsterniss kommt's Licht,  
Das Leben aus dem Tod,  
Das Etwas aus dem Nicht.**

**—IV, 163.**





### MAN IN ETERNITY.

When quitting time, I am  
Myself eternity.  
I shall be one with God,  
God one with me shall be.



Ich selbst bin Ewigkeit,  
Wann ich die Zeit verlasse,  
Und mich in Gott und Gott  
In mich zusammenfasse.

—I, 13.





### NO DEATH.

I don't believe in death.  
Though hour for hour I die,  
Each time upon each death  
To better life I hie.



Ich glaube keinen Tod—  
Sterb ich gleich alle Stunden,  
So hab ich jedesmal  
Ein besser Leben funden.

—I, 30.





### THE BEST THING.

I do declare that death,  
Because he makes me free,  
The best thing in the world,  
The very best must be.



Ich sage, weil allein  
Der Tod mich machet frei,  
Dass er das beste Ding  
Aus allen Dingen sei.

—I, 35.





**NO DEATH,—NO LIFE.**

**E'en God must die, Himself,  
That you may live thereby.  
How can you gain His life  
Unless like Him you die?**



**Gott selber, wenn er dir  
Will leben, muss er sterben:  
Wie denkst du ohne Tod  
Sein Leben zu ererben?**  
—I, 33.





### MARTYR DEATH.

Death is a blessed thing!  
The stronger death chastises,  
The much more glorious is  
The life that therefrom rises.



Tod is ein selig Ding:  
Je kräftiger er ist,  
Je herrlicher daraus  
Das Leben wird erkiest.  
—I, 26.





### WHAT IS MOST NEEDED.

Oh ponder well on death!  
Too many things you try!  
Naught can more useful be,  
Than how one means to die.



Denk an den Tod, mein Christ:  
Was denkst du anders viel?  
Man denkt nichts nützlicher's,  
Als wie man sterben will.

-IV, 107.







### CONCLUSION.

Friend it is now enough.  
In case thou more wilt read:  
Thou must become the script,  
The essence eke, indeed.



Freund, es ist auch genug.  
Im Fall du mehr willst lesen,  
So geh und werde selbst  
Die Schrift und selbst das Wesen.  
—VI, 263.



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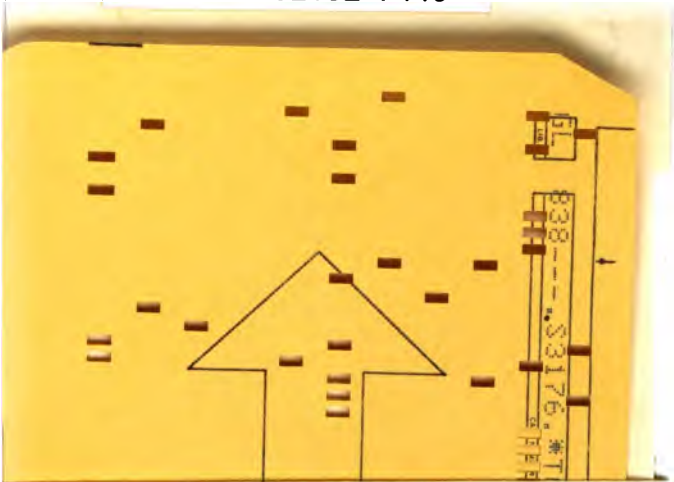
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